

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 14 and 16 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend Claims 9, 13, 15 and 21, and add new Claim 23 as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A recording medium comprising a base material and an ink-receiving layer provided on said base material and containing a particulate material;

 said particulate material containing particles of crystalline aluminum oxide;

 said ink-receiving layer being obtained by applying a coating solution containing said particulate material to said base material followed by drying to form a coating layer, applying water to the coating layer to cause swelling and pressing the surface thereof against a heated mirror-surface drum to conduct drying treatment;

 wherein the specular gloss of the surface of said ink-receiving layer is not less than 20% as measured at 20°.

2. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide by not less than 70wt%.

3. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide by not less than 90wt%.

4. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said ink-receiving layer contains a binder and the mixing ratio of said particulate aluminum oxide to said binder is within a range of between 5 : 1 and 25 : 1 by weight.

5. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of said aluminum oxide particles is not more than $0.3\mu\text{m}$ and not less than 80% of the total aluminium oxide particles has a particle diameter of not more than $1.0\mu\text{m}$.

6. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the BET specific surface area of the aluminum oxide is between 100 and 160 m^2/g .

7. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein said base material comprises a fibrous substrate and a surface layer containing barium sulfate provided on the fibrous substrate and said ink-receiving layer is provided on said surface layer.

8. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 7, wherein said fibrous substrate weighs 150 to $180\text{g}/\text{m}^2$.

9. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the ~~Stoeckigt~~ Stöckigt sizing degree of said fibrous substrate is not less than 200 seconds.

10. (Withdrawn) A recording medium according to claim 1, further comprising an alumina-containing layer provided on the surface of said base material opposite to the surface onto which said ink-receiving layer is provided.

11. (Withdrawn) An image-forming method of forming an image by applying a recording liquid to the surface of the ink-receiving layer of the recording medium according to claim 1 in response to recording information.

12. (Withdrawn) An image-forming method according to claim 11, wherein said application of the recording liquid is performed by means of an ink-jet recording system.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a recording medium comprising a base material and an ink-receiving layer provided on said base material and containing a particulate material, comprising the steps of:

producing a coating layer by applying a coating solution containing said particulate material containing particles of crystalline aluminum oxide to said base material followed by drying;

applying water to the coating layer to cause swelling and pressing the surface of the swelled coating layer against a heated mirror-surface drum to produce said ink-receiving layer so as to have a specular gloss of the surface thereof not less than 20% as measured at 20°.

wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide at not less than 70 wt %; and

said ink-receiving layer contains a binder, and the mixing ratio of said particulate aluminum oxide to said binder is within a range of between 5:1 and 25:1 by weight.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein said particulate material contains particulate aluminum oxide by at not less than 90wt% 90 wt%.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein the average particle diameter of said aluminum oxide particles is not more than $0.3\mu\text{m}$ and not less than 80% of the total aluminium oxide particles has a particle diameter of not more than $1.0\mu\text{m}$.

18. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein the BET specific surface area of the aluminum oxide is between 100 and 160 m^2/g .

19. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein said base material comprises a fibrous substrate and a surface layer containing barium sulfate provided on the fibrous substrate and said ink-receiving layer is provided on said surface layer.

20. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 19, wherein said fibrous substrate weighs 150 to 180g/m².

21. (Currently Amended) A manufacturing method according to claim 19 or 20, wherein the ~~Stoeckigt~~ Stöckigt sizing degree of said fibrous substrate is not less than 200 seconds.

22. (Original) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, further comprising:

a step of providing an alumina-containing layer on the surface of said base material opposite to the surface onto which said ink-receiving layer is provided.

23. (New) A manufacturing method according to claim 13, wherein the coating amount of the ink-receiving layer is 20 g/m² or higher in terms of dry solid matter.